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(54) Title: **BINDING PROTEIN**

(57) Abstract

A functionally unglycosylated transmembrane protein having a molecular weight of about 24kd which is ubiquitous in human cells and exhibits the same species specificity as hepatitis C virus. The protein is capable of binding to HCV surface proteins and is a putative HCV cellular receptor. As such it has many applications in the fields of diagnosis and treatment of HCV infection and in the design of HCV therapeutics.

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